

HERSETH SANDLIN RECOGNIZES EFFORTS OF SOUTH DAKOTANS FIGHTING FLOODS

Washington, DC, March 24, 2010

-Today, Rep. Herseth Sandlin submitted the following Congressional Record statement recognizing the efforts of South Dakotans working to fight flooding and mitigate damage across the eastern part of the state:

**STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
MARCH 24, 2010**

Ms. Herseth Sandlin. Madame Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many South Dakotans who have helped fight the effects of widespread flooding throughout the northeast and southeast portions of the state in recent weeks.

About one month ago, South Dakota faced the threat of significant damage and cost due to flooding. The northeast and southeast portions of the state had high water tables and the winter's snow was beginning to melt. That meant rising water on our rivers and creeks and a danger of flooding that threatened our agricultural economy, roads and homes.

But South Dakotans didn't flinch in the face of these developments. Instead they banded together as they always do and developed plans to mitigate the worst of the dangers and deal with the smaller inconveniences.

County emergency managers worked with state officials from the Department of Public Safety and Office of Emergency Management. Red Cross volunteers worked with mayors of small towns. The National Guard mobilized to help the city of Aberdeen, and the Civil Air Patrol scouted flood damage from the air. Local law enforcement officials and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department, patrolled and offered assistance to those in danger. And neighbors worked with and for each other, filling sandbags to protect their homes and their communities.

Our federal partners did their share as well. The Federal Emergency Management Agency helped train state Office of Emergency Management staff in the weeks before the heaviest flood activities and has already begun assisting the state in planning for recovery operations. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stepped up with a levee project to protect the city of Watertown, completing it on time and amidst concerns over flooding.

Today, I am proud to report that, while the danger is not entirely past and there remains much recovery work to do, South Dakota once again has come together to successfully meet a challenge head on.

We still have some roads closed, dozens of homes suffered some flooding damage and it may be some time until we can determine the extent of the damage. But we have, so far, avoided the kinds of catastrophic damage that was feared.

Madame Speaker, I remain proud as ever to represent the people of South Dakota and their

enduring ability to rise to whatever challenge they must. I offer my sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to limit the effects of this flooding.